VALIANT
MAR. NO. 10
25¢ CAN
VALIANT
=VOICE=
BLOODSHOT
SHOOTS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
#0
HEXUS
DOUBLE THRILLS OF A DOUBLE BILL !!!
THE VALIANT 1994 CALENDAR CENTERFOLD!

VALIANT VOICE™

VOLUME NUMBER ONE
ISSUE NUMBER TEN

EDITORIAL

Who could have predicted the phenomenal success that VALIANT achieved in 1993?

We did.

Remember what I wrote in last year's editorial preview? I prepared you for the wonders in store and few were disappointed.

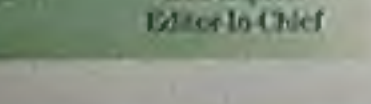
Hold onto your VALIANT baseball caps 'cause here's what's coming for '94.

January heralds ***SHADOWMAN MONTH*** with an editorial tribute to our nervosaintic night-stalker in four different publications! ***SHADOWMAN*** #0 comes your way with the secret origins of the legend of ***SHADOWMAN***, brought to you in wrap around chromium glory by writer/artist Bob Hall with the exceptional talents of Tom Ryder (***X-O MANOWAR*** inker) and Mike Cavallaro (***SHADOWMAN*** colorist). Beginning in January, Tom will be joining Bob and Mike as the new regular inker on ***SHADOWMAN***'s own monthly series as well. Not only will ***SHADOWMAN*** makes a guest appearance in ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG*** #31, but you'll be treated to a special trade paperback representing every classic, hard-to-obtain, ***SHADOWMAN*** adventure ever published in one special publication in the reader called "The Unique Passages", containing loads of information on VALIANT's #1 supervillian.

February brings the magic of VALIANT Vision to the force as we present the first of the three-part epic of Solar the Destroyer to you in the pages of ***SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM*** #33. This "series within a series" will reach a cosmic climax in April and it will all be in that spectacular process -- VALIANT Vision, and done by the creative team of Kevin VanHook, Peter Grau, Jimmy Palmiotti, and Carol VanHook.

March ushers in our third anniversary as a superhero universe and we're going to celebrate it in style. Not only will there be a special issue of *Wizard* magazine to commemorate the event, but we'll also present the debut of VALIANT's most incredible team to date -- ***THE ARMORINES***! Leaping from the pages of ***X-O MANOWAR*** into their own monthly series, these armored leathernecks will be brought to you by one of VALIANT's premiere creative teams -- Jorge Gonzales and Jim Calafiore.

Every regular reader of the VALIANT Universe knows that, from time to time, I'll make sweeping changes in the format of certain titles (i.e. ***SHADOWMAN***, ***HARBINGER***, etc.). May will be a wake-up call to the 41st century as ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER*** and ***RAI AND THE FUTURE FORCE*** undergo a radical shift in storyline. A myriad of yearbooks are in the works in '94 including ***BLOODSHOT***, ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER***, and ***X-O MANOWAR***, to name but a few. New series for '94 include ***TIMEWALKER***, the time-spanning adventures of Ivar (brother to Gilad, the Eternal Warrior, and Armstrong), ***STARWATCHERS*** -- a new galactic saga set in the 41st century, and lastly, the single most important comic in the history of VALIANT -- ***THE VISITOR***!



Bob Layton
Editor-In-Chief

A HERO'S BLOODY ORIGIN: BLOODSHOT #0

December arrives with a BANG as VALIANT presents what could be the most eagerly awaited "zero" issue ever -- ***BLOODSHOT #0***! Ever since escaping from Project Rising Spirit with his veins full of nanites and his mind emptied of memories, Bloodshot has been a deadly enigma. Even when he confronted Mafia boss Carbonri and Rising Spirit founder Iwatsu, Bloodshot came away with precious few answers. Readers of this ultra-popular VALIANT series have long-burned with curiosity, wondering along with Bloodshot what his life was like before he was remade into a crimson-eyed juggernaut. At last, the truth is told about Bloodshot's former life as Mafia hit-man Angelo Mortalli, and how he was sold out to become Project Rising Spirit's most dangerous test subject. And, as ***BLOODSHOT*** #0 reveals, the man known as Bloodshot was every bit as deadly *before* his fantastic transformation!

THE STORYTELLERS!

BLOODSHOT #0 is written and pencilled by the man who has chronicled the nanite-enhanced hero's adventures from the beginning -- Kevin VanHook. ***BLOODSHOT*** readers are certainly familiar with Kevin's ability to spin a gripping tale, but few are aware of his talents as an illustrator. Kevin was pencilling, inking, and even coloring his stories at other publishers for ten years before bringing his master storytelling to VALIANT. Now, readers will have the opportunity to see VanHook's rendition of the hero he helped create who plays such a vital role in some of the most important events in the history of the VALIANT Universe. An aficionado of such classic illustrators as Al Williamson, VanHook has penciled ***BLOODSHOT*** #0 with an expressive, breathtaking approach that pulls together the best of a wide variety of styles. Sharp-eyed readers will delight in Kevin's homage to the many artists that have contributed to the growth of the VALIANT Universe.

THE EMBELLISHER!

Bringing a polish and vitality to Kevin's pencils, as few inkers in the industry can, is legendary embellisher Dick Giordano. A pioneer and trendsetter in the comics field, Giordano has worked on top projects for longer than most of today's readers have been alive! ***BLOODSHOT*** #0 becomes the latest milestone in the storied career of the man who is *the* major influence for nearly every big-name inker in the industry. In fact, our own Editor-In-Chief and inkster-extraordinaire Bob Layton owes much of his expertise to Giordano, for whom he once apprenticed.

THE DETAILS!

BLOODSHOT #0 is the tale of mobster Angelo Mortalli, his first deadly confrontation with the Eternal Warrior, and his subsequent, unwilling transformation into the hero called Bloodshot. For the first time ever, VALIANT readers will get a glimpse of the man Bloodshot once was and the shadowy criminal underworld in which he made his mark. Angelo Mortalli was a cruel and vicious man. His initial encounter with the Eternal Warrior very nearly puts an end to Gilad's centuries of battling evil -- an incredible irony, considering that Gilad goes on to become Bloodshot's closest friend. But those who espouse violence often meet with violent ends, and such is the fate of Mortalli, who is given over to Project Rising Spirit by his own "family" -- the Mob. ***BLOODSHOT*** #0 is a rare opportunity to see the dark side of a hero. This stirring book is not just a pulse-pounding thrill ride -- it puts all of Bloodshot's heroism into perspective by revealing his evil past. In rising up from his murderous roots, Bloodshot becomes a true hero in every sense of the word.

So, this December, look for ***BLOODSHOT*** #0 at your local comics shop. With its wraparound chromium cover by superstars Joe Quesada and Dick Giordano (ala the classic ***X-O MANOWAR*** #0) it won't stay on the stands for long! Check it out and find out for yourself why, before he had the Blood of Heroes, there was blood on his hands. ★

MAGNUS/NEXUS: A breathtaking battle for the future!

The early sixties saw the debut of a futuristic action-oriented comic book featuring a hero who was raised in solitude and trained to be a champion for good. That book was the original ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER*** by legendary comics illustrator, Russ Manning. Both fans and artists alike were blown away by Manning's vision of the future. His clean, expressive art style and the fully painted covers had a profound influence on a whole new crop of young, aspiring artists -- including a young man named Steve Rude.

Around twenty years later, another futuristic action-oriented comic book hit the stands, also featuring a hero who was raised in seclusion and trained to be a champion. With a wild new view of the future, painted covers and gorgeous art reminiscent of Manning's own, this book also caught the imagination and praise of fans and critics. The series was named ***NEXUS*** and it was the brainchild of ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG*** writer Mike Baron and acclaimed artist Steve Rude. Reflecting the changes in society since the days of the original ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER***, the cosmic executioner Nexus was a more complex and darkly toned character than the Robot Fighter. But the love and respect that the creators of NEXUS have for ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER*** showed [illegible] in the style of the newer book, and Magnus and 1-A even made a cameo appearance in one ***NEXUS*** crowd scene!

At last, these two heroes, so different and yet so similar, come together in a two-part story that allows Mike Baron and Steve Rude to team up their two favorite characters. That's because this December VALIANT and Dark Horse Comics present ***MAGNUS/NEXUS***!

The story is set in fortieth-century North Am, prior to the Malev invasion. These are happier, more innocent days for Magnus as he enjoys his relationship with Leeja, as well as his status as North Am's protector. The trouble starts when a powerful stranger named Arkon appears, promising to rid North Am's impoverished lower levels of disease and hunger. Magnus soon learns that all is not as it seems with Arkon. This seemingly benevolent visitor is actually a fugitive from another time, and he is pursued by a superhuman masked avenger known as Nexus! The confrontation that follows makes for non-stop action and riveting reading.

MAGNUS/NEXUS is what comics should be -- a perfect blend of sharp, thought-provoking writing and clear, dynamic art. And the illustrators that Rude and inker Cary Martin deliver rank among the most beautiful art ever presented by VALIANT. Having penciled the story in the same detailed double-sized format that was the standard of Manning's day, Steve Rude has taken great care to evoke the grace and power of the original ***MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER*** stories. Often compared with such luminaries as Jack Kirby and Alex Toth, Steve Rude is a consummate craftsman whose painstaking methods and artistic integrity have made his work appear all too infrequently. While ***MAGNUS/NEXUS*** is the first work that Rude has done for VALIANT, Mike Baron has become quite familiar to readers as the regular writer of ***ARCHER & ARMSTRONG***. His wit and versatility give him the range to write zany misadventures and gut-wrenching violence with equal aptitude. Baron puts this talent to good use in ***MAGNUS/NEXUS***, using humor and mystery to sharpen the impact of the action. As the regular inker on Dark Horse's current ***NEXUS*** projects, Cary Martin has developed just the right touch to bring out the power in Rude's pencils. And, as with VALIANT colorist Paul Acito applying the hand-painted colors that VALIANT is known for, ***MAGNUS/NEXUS*** boasts one of the best creative teams in comics!

So, whether you're a discerning collector or just enjoy a fast-paced adventure, give yourself a holiday present this December and pick up ***MAGNUS/NEXUS***!

VALIANT.

BOB LAYTON
Sr. V.P.,
Editor-in-Chief

STEVEN E. MASSARSKY
Publisher, C.E.O.

[illegible]
Sr. V.P.

KEVIN VANHOOK
Executive Editor

[illegible]
V.P. Special Projects/Creative Director

JORGE GONZÁLEZ
Editor

[illegible]
Editor

MARTY STEVER
V.P. Marketing

[illegible]
V.P. Finance

FRED PIERCE
V.P. of Operations & Manufacturing

THERESA GIARDINO
Accounting Manager

JAMES PERHAM
Office Manager

PAUL FAIRCHILD
Direct Sales Manager

JENNIFER MALDONADO
Manager of Marketing, Special Projects

JULIE CRIMMINS
Editorial Coordinator

BRAD J. GOLDBERG
Traffic Manager

ROBIN KLEIN
Psychiatrist/
Asst. Editor

JADE MOEDE
Art Department Supervisor

JESSE BERDINKA
Asst. Editor

HARRY EISENSTEIN
Special Projects Manager

DARREN SANCHEZ
Production Manager

SIMON ERICH
Computer Graphics Designer

JOHN KELLY
Asst. Production Manager

LEE STACY
Production Artist

SCOTT FRIEDLANDER
Design Director

RAFAEL SOLER
Production Artist

RANDY BROZEN
Production Coordinator

SEABORN ADAMSON
Valiant Archivist

TONY BEDARD
Valiant Voice Editor

JENNIFER MALDONADO & JAMES PERHAM
Valiant Voice Associate Editors

ELIM MAK & SCOTT FRIEDLANDER
Valiant Voice Art Directors

VALIANT Voices™ Vol. 1 No. 10, December, 1995. Published by VALIANT, a division of Voyager Communications Inc., Steven J. Massarsky, Secretary. Office of Publication: 351 Seventh Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001. © 1995 Voyager Communications Inc. Magnus Robot Fighter, Solar, Man of the Atom, Turok, Son of Stone, and all other characters herein and the distinctive likenesses thereof which originally appeared in publications originally published by Western Publishing, Inc., are trademarks of Western Publishing Company, Inc. All other characters herein and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Voyager Communications Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any persons living or dead, or any institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

Kevin VanHook ON BLOODSHOT #0

RAPPIN' WITH

November [illegible] days have passed since Kevin VanHook returned from a meeting in Sparta, Illinois, where he signed a [illegible] contract. "I don't go through agents so when I traveled to [illegible] remarks Kevin, the 28-year-old native of Indiana. The matter-of-fact tone in his voice suggests that Kevin sees this as a minor inconvenience, one that will not deter him from getting on with the business of the day, whether it be meeting fans, traveling, writing, drawing, editing or going to the movies. His mentor, Valiant co-workers and friends, also agree. Kevin must do these or four things at a time. So long time friend and VALIANT co-worker Jimmy Perham "I call him *Robot* White . . . never have I seen someone that has creativity and quality on demand. Ask him a question or for an idea and the floodgates open wide." As production notes of this interview, [illegible] pages of *SECRET WEAPONS*, showing color pages by *ARCHER & ARMSTRONG* and giving layout suggestions to an artist.

While the word may never be drawn to the point we will with it, Kevin is VALIANT's Executive Editor, writes *BLOODSHOT*, *SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM* and *ETERNAL WARRIOR* and [illegible] may become the highlight of his career, penciller of *BLOODSHOT* #0. A full-length 40 book, inked by [illegible], would be daunting for a [illegible] at VALIANT. Not for Kevin, he's [illegible] the right thing at the right time. "When I first started at VALIANT, nearly two years ago, I was doing [illegible] the job I was doing, [illegible] manager," says Kevin. "I was really interested in [illegible] or even writing at the time. Primarily what I wanted to do was draw and understand the job." He continues, "That's the way by and I believe more accomplished in the environment. I started [illegible] subsequently, I proceeded to edit the [illegible] books. I've been for [illegible] penciling for so [illegible] labor of love," he remarks.

"In January of last year I talked to [illegible] about my interest in penciling. [illegible] Keating told me we both agreed that *BLOODSHOT* #0 would be the right project. Plus, *BLOODSHOT* does have a natural flow. Who would have a better grasp of the character than the person who has molded him from his inception? "*BLOODSHOT* is a real mixture and purpose. The story I had for *BLOODSHOT* #1," says Kevin, "[illegible] Don [illegible] and myself had been [illegible] book – a departure, considering that was coded [illegible] orientation, Mortacies. We [illegible] protection problem that as I've been [illegible] the story with Bob and I realized it would be better left as an origin story," remarks Kevin. "It worked out better in the end. *BLOODSHOT* #0 leads directly into *BLOODSHOT* #1 – the [illegible] issue."

There is a marked exuberance in Kevin's voice as he describes his battle to create a non-sympathetic take on a character who [illegible] sympathetic. "I [illegible] interested in today style to [illegible] a second person's view of the story, where it is told by Great Abraxas rather than by Angelo Mortalli. It reveals how Mortalli is chosen by the gods to perform a [illegible] feat on Great Abraxas, and the ramifications [illegible] such a [illegible] which made Bob's [illegible] of Mortalli [illegible] Mortalli laughed and the chain of events that led to him becoming [illegible]," Kevin [illegible] "Language and *BLOOD-SHOT* as with the [illegible] from *BLOODSHOT* #1, [illegible] different perspective with Bloodshot is about [illegible] this is a man that [illegible] so removed. He's a really bad guy. I feel that in a known way it's a commentary on [illegible] environment vs. genetics; an argument as to whether a person's character would change if his memories were erased and he was given a [illegible] life. I've left it open for [illegible] to be answered in [illegible] issues of Bloodshot, but can't really show your hand character to have no conscience. Most [illegible] can sympathize with the individual struggle between [illegible] and evil. This angle is key to [illegible] and [illegible] to narrative story," says Kevin. "He has seen both sides – the evil and the good. Gil [illegible] it as a form-[illegible] situation. And it's important as a guide, because Bloodshot lives his life as a reborn individual. His name suggests that rebirth; no longer Angelo Mortalli –

VanHook interview continued on page 8

VOICE MAIL

Please address all correspondence to:
VALIANT VOICE™
c/o VOYAGER COMMUNICATIONS
275 Seventh Ave.
New York, NY 10001

FEAR OF CHANGE

Change is a fact of life, and how people react to it reveals a lot about them. When it comes to changes in comic book art teams, reactions can vary quite a bit.

THE RAGE OVER RAGS

Dear VALIANT,

*I was just wondering what happened to the character and artwork of **TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER**, beginning with issues #4&5. Not so much that the art in general is bad, because some of it is quite good, but specifically with the character of Turok himself. It's almost as if I'm reading a different book.*

When I first saw Turok in ***X-O MANOWAR*** (my favorite VALIANT character) issues #14&15, drawn by Bart Sears, he was buffed and merciless, as is Aric. He was equally impressive in the first couple of issues of his own title. Now, not only is he drawn almost wimpy by comparison, but the muscularity is lacking detail and the facial features are not even close. In addition, the character seems to have lost some of the ruthlessness and hardness he once had.

I realize that different artists and writers have their own styles. However, in the past, VALIANT has always prided itself on consistency of artwork and characters, even though various people may work on the same book.

When Turok first came out with his own title it was one of my favorite books. But, in all honesty, I have almost completely lost interest after the last couple of issues. I know that you are going to be putting some new artists on the book and, while they may be very good, I hope that you will consider writing and drawing Turok to more closely resemble the beginning of the series.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Dykes

*Following on the heels of a fan-favorite like Bart Sears is a big challenge for anyone. Invariably, there will be some fans like Lawrence who feel that the "buffed and merciless" rendition of the character is the best. Certainly, Rags' Turok has a different look than Bart's. But, to say that the "muscularity is lacking detail" or that Rags' work lacks drama and power would be completely wrong! Just take a look at that devastating panel in **TUROK #6** where Turok bashes Longhunter with a monkey wrench! With such impact and energy, VALIANT feels that Rags Morales is one of the hottest new talents in the biz. Try it! Indeed, most reader responses and sales figures support the following viewpoint:*

●●●

TUROK TAKES A TURN

Dear VALIANT,

***TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER* #1, 2, and 3** were spectacular. The issues combined excellent storytelling with awesome art. Turok was instantly my favorite comic. But then issues #4 and 5 had a different penciller named Rags Morales.

Mr. Morales' interpretation of Turok was very strange to me. It took me some time to get used to his Turok, as I was used to Bart Sears' version. Unfortunately, so were my friends. Suddenly, Turok was not such a hot item with them anymore. However, I saw this as a refreshing new look at Turok. Since the story was still excellently told and drawn, I decided to continue buying and supporting ***TUROK*** 100%.

After reading ***SHADOWMAN* #10**, I was instantly hooked on VALIANT comics. I love your beautiful art and intriguing stories and hope you keep quality a priority.

Sincerely,
Steve Cho

Well said, Steve. You should also consider that when critically acclaimed writer Timothy Truman took over the series with Rags, one of their goals was to restore the more authentic Native American look that Turok had in the original TUROK series. So, what you're seeing in current issues of TUROK isn't some alternate version of the Dinosaur Hunter — it's the premier artistic Rags recently, changes have been afoot in HARBINGER.

●●●

HARBINGER GETS REVAMPED

Dear VALIANT and fellow readers,

Like many readers, I have the tendency to complain at the first sign of change and revamping. But, for the first time in many, many months I can see the reasons for these changes (other than monetary gain and publicity). There are many out there who will grumble and complain and yet countless others who will flock at the sight of a "collector's issue". Please, I am not implying that you guys are doing it for those reasons. Anyway, I thought I'd attempt to express my thoughts in an intelligent fashion.

Looking back, it appears inevitable that Bling die, the ***HARBINGER*** team get crushed, etc. (***HAI* #0**, for those who have been sleeping). The plot has been thought through from the beginning. Unlike most changes, this one has been planned and well developed.

One of the reasons ***HARBINGER*** is such a great comic is that it has real characters, superpowers aside. The people seem real enough to reach out and touch. That has to be one of the greatest accomplishments for a creator and/or writer. So, with that in mind, we the readers have to accept the fact that change happens in real life. Many times when we don't want it. I and just about every other faithful ***HARBINGER*** reader don't want to say good bye to the old team. Unfortunately, it's something we have to accept. And maybe if we're lucky, we'll even welcome it.

Thank you for listening.
Filip Sablik

P.S. I miss Howard Simpson already. What will he be doing next?

*As you saw in **HARBINGER #25**, Pete Stanchek did not actually die, though he seems to have lost his powers and we may never see him again. Certainly, his days as renegade Harbinger leader "Sting" have come to an end. But your response to the changes in **HARBINGER** are right on the mark! And, if you've seen the sizzling work in **HARBINGER #26**, you already know that this series is only getting better. As for Howard Simpson, look for his work on an upcoming story arc in **TUROK!***

VALIANT.

NEWS FLASH

THE CARDS ARE STACKED — IN YOUR FAVOR!

What could be as much fun as trading VALIANT comics cover to cover? Not much. Except maybe collecting them — the covers that is! For all you card-carrying members, VALIANT Era II Card Set picks up where #1 left off, covering January '93 through November '93. Each collectible pack, scheduled to ship in March '94, is stacked to the hilt with spectacular color replicas of VALIANT covers and story synopses, and may contain (depending on the luck of the draw) one of several special insert cards. These random offerings may include never-before-seen promotional art, first appearance cards featuring your favorite VALIANT characters, or special VALIANT covers from various "zero" issue books as well as Yearbooks. Upper Deck has assured us that they have shuffled the decks much better this time and that each hand will have a better mix than the first set. *Looks like it's going to be a great deal!* And, to get the December '93 cover artwork, each February VALIANT pack will include your Upper Deck VALIANT Era trading card. You just can't lose if you ante up!

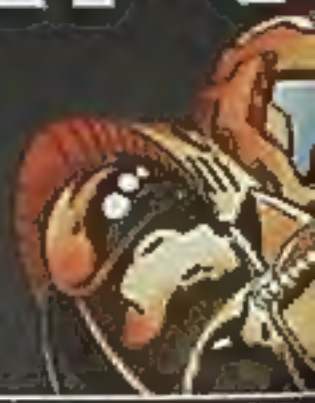
AND HERE COMES...

The ***ARMORINES***! Due to the tremendous response we received for these armored combatants, they will be *shipping off* for your local store in March '94. Written by ***X-O MANOWAR***'s Jorge Gonzalez and pencilled by Jan Cazaloy, this military strike team should prove to be a formidable power! **Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes**...With all the extraordinary enthusiasm generated for the above-mentioned ***ARMORINES***, ***TIME-WALKER***, originally scheduled for February, has been nudged into a new slot. Look for this time-travelin' dude in the summer. Don't worry, he'll be here before you know it...it's just a matter of time...

WHERE IS MIKE LEEKE????

Mike's been busy getting married — twice! Once in Maryland, and once, in that reception hall to top all others — the VALIANT office! With Jade officiating, it was a matrimonial bash! Not to fret though, he did marry just one woman. Now that he's happily settled down, this penciller of ***X-O MANOWAR*** and ***H.A.R.D. CORPS*** will be working his creative talents on a new book that will make its debut early this summer. We promise it will be a fun ride, but that's all we're going to tell you — for now!

VALIAN



JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	1
16	17	18	19	20	21	2
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	2

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	1
13	14	15	16	17	18	1
20	21	22	23	24	25	2
27	28	29	30	31		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	1
15	16	17	18	19	20	2

T 1994
FEBRUARY
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28
APRIL
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
JUNE
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18

22	23	24	25	26	27	2
29	30	31				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	1
17	18	19	20	21	22	2
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	3

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	1
11	12	13	14	15	16	1
18	19	20	21	22	23	2
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	2
27	28	29	30			

The VISITOR™

						18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

ARRIVES IN 1994!

CREATORS' CORNER

NAME:
SEAN CHEN

IDENTITY:
Age: 25. Native of Potomac, MD. Graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University. Currently resides in New York City. Penciller of **HARBINGER**, former penciller of **RAI & THE FUTURE FORCE**.

One of the most talked-about artists currently working in comics, Sean Chen began his career at VALIANT soon after being discovered at the 1992 San Diego Comic Convention. Launched into the spotlight with a successful run on **RAI & THE FUTURE FORCE**, Sean then switched books and his pencils now grace the pages of **HARBINGER**, which *Heroes Illustrated*, *Wizard* and *Comic Buyers Guide* have proclaimed as one of the most exciting recent moves in the industry.

Trained in industrial design at Carnegie-Mellon, Sean sees his ability to draw comics as a combination of intense desire and rigorous training. "I don't believe that I was born with phenomenal artistic talent," he explains when asked about the key to his artistic proficiency. "It was something that has evolved through training and hard work."

That training has paid off. Sean's subtle yet angular abstractions in character definition have drawn comparisons to Howard Chaykin and the early work of Hernandez. And, as evidenced in the art above, Sean has a graceful sense of narrative that is suggestive of Barry Windsor-Smith, Dave Mazzucchelli, the crisp, clean lines and minimalist approach are reminiscent of Jaime

Associations such as these, coupled with the high level of skill attained in such a short period of time, has led to rampant speculation as to just how much Sean will achieve in the course of his career. But Sean has his eyes set firmly on the future. "I try to improve my work everyday. I never want to get lazy about my art. My goal is to put all the enthusiasm I have into my work and translate it into art that moves the reader."

A View from Within

Without a doubt, the biggest behind-the-scenes VALIANT event this month was the two-part adventure of the Mike and Lo Leeke Wedding. The actual wedding took place in Lanslowne, Maryland, which is "seemingly" just a short plane trip away from our New York office. With plane tickets in hand, hotel reservations confirmed, and wedding presents packed away, nineteen VALIANT staffers and freelancers made their way Saturday to Newark International airport at the ungodly hour of 5:30 a.m. for a 7 a.m. flight. (For some, there was a heavy detour to LaGuardia Airport, where they thought the plane would leave from!) The early morning fog was extremely thick, so the group was faced with a flight cancellation and the nightmare of flying stand-by. Six aggravatingly long hours later, just four seats became available. The seats went to Don Perlin and his wife Becky, Randy Brozen, and Jennifer Maldonado, while the remaining fifteen were kept on hold. Those of us who preferred the safety of the ground to air, such as Sean Chen, Howard Simpson, Rafael Soler, and my wife Amy and I, had left a day earlier and arrived without a hitch. We had no idea of the others' plight. It did become apparent, however, as they started playing "Here Comes the Bride," that the rest of our crew was not going to make it!

The reason this was a two-part adventure is because we decided to relive the event here in the office as part of the annual *Jade Appreciation Day*. (Fog has never been a problem for the N.Y.C. Subway System!) With Jade performing the ceremony and the well-dressed guests present for the occasion, everything went smoothly...this time!

In place of this month's "Did You Know", I would like to print a retraction. In the current issue of **X-O MANOWAR #24**, it was indicated that the cover was colored by Andrew Covalt. Andy is a fine colorist, but this cover was fully painted by **MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER** penciller, Jim Calafiore. Sorry about that Jim...

Darren Vincenzo
Production Manager

Out on with the wedding ceremony, Jade. *Jade officiates the VALIANT version of The Mike and Lo Leeke Wedding, with a special appearance by Randy as the Pope. Obviously Bob can't keep a straight face through this thing!*

Here's lookin' at you kids! *We proudly announce Mr. and Mrs. Mike Leeke – let's break open the champagne and eat that (yet another) cake!!! And afterwards! Dinner options in honor of the VALIANT newlyweds.*

VanHook Interview continued from page 4

now Michael Lazarus. Both names were chosen to describe who the character is and was. Angelo Mortalli, synonymous with the Angel of Death. Michael Lazarus, akin to someone coming back from the dead."

Relationships, be they familial or otherwise, are a source of exploration for most characters. Bloodshot has used them only in passing. "Well," remarks Kevin, "his family will come up in ***BLOODSHOT*** #0. It is a reality that in some cases, family is the impetus for establishing crime links and the like. There are those people that are strong enough not to succumb to the allure of danger, some, as in this case, are not. You can also see it as this family [the Mafia] is the family he does not have."

A buzz went through the industry when Dick Giordano's work on ***BLOODSHOT*** #0 was announced. This is a coup for VALIANT; maybe more so, though, for VanHook. "Initially, Bob [Layton] was going to ink it. But, after Dick retired from DC, we thought this would be the perfect opportunity to have him work with us. He is a longtime friend of Bob's and welcomed the chance to work with the company. He is a legend," adds Kevin. "For me it was the culmination of a not-to-be-believed year."

As Executive Editor, Kevin is no stranger to the press – both good and bad – that are lobbied against VALIANT. "I believe that with success, the company has changed," says Kevin. " But more internally, from a structural point of view. Not from what is seen externally. I believe that we run a tighter ship now," he says, "production-wise and in terms of quality control."

"I honestly believe that if you read the books now compared with those last year, they are unmistakably better drawn and written," says Kevin. He continues, "We are still doing all the cool things that made us VALIANT. Things like ***UNITY***, the ***X-O Database***, ***X-O MANOWAR*** #0. The VALIANT Reader is what VALIANT is all about; the desire to let new readers understand the VALIANT Universe and for the established reader to pick up stories that they may have missed. Being on the inside, I see VALIANT working just as hard, or in most cases even harder than ever, to keep the quality levels high."

In a year teeming with major personal and professional accomplishments, Kevin exudes confidence and expectation. In speaking with him there are hints of underlying hope for what the next year may bring. "Bob and I have been working on creating a new series," says Kevin, "which will tentatively be our eighteenth title. Consequently, I will hand over the writing of ***ETERNAL WARRIOR***; the April issue will probably be my last." He continues, "It was a tough choice because I genuinely like all the characters I write. I'll miss writing ***ETERNAL WARRIOR*** from a historical standpoint, but I had to make the decision." Adds Kevin, "I have plans for a surprising story next year. With what I learned in 1999, and what Bob and I have worked out, I think people are going to be blown away." ✱

TIMELINE OF THE VALIANT UNIVERSE

AUG 4001

AUG 4001

Kamyo Nakadai escapes from her prison on Japan plummets to Earth. With the assistance of her direct enemy, Mishka, she manages to reclaim the X-O Commander armor.

OCT 4001

Led by Bulkhead Tate, Tekno Kimomi travels deep into the bulk of the south side of Japan to find the Blood of Jamyo. There he replaces his own blood with that of the twentieth century hero. Bloodshot and Tekno become the Last Kin.

APR 4002

APR 4002

Magnus is imprisoned on Phobos and escapes with Link's help. Shortly later, Magnus and Link make it to a ship and take off for Earth.

APR 4002

APR 4002

To aid in the defense of earth, Bulkhead Tate helps form the Future Force consisting of the new Bat, Tekla, Gilad, X-O Commander, Spyke-ke and Magnus.

APR 4002

The Maleo Emperor takes control of North Am's mainframe. He now controls all of North Am's robots and he removes the restrictions against robots doing harm to humans.

APR 4002

NEXT MONTH: THE UNITY TIMELINE BEGINS!!!

~COMING THIS MONTH~

DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON:

BLOODSHOT #0

BLOODSHOT™ #0
By VanHook and Giordano
$3.50 U.S./$4.60 Canadian
This is Bloodshot's origin — the story of Angelo Mortelli and the events that helped pave the way for him to become Bloodshot, including his first fateful encounter with the Eternal Warrior. Written and illustrated by Kevin VanHook, with inks by comics legend Dick Giordano! This VALIANT #0 issue also features a stunning, full weaponsed character cover by fan-favorites Joe Quesada and Dick Giordano.

MAGNUS #1

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER™/NEXUS™ #1 (of 2)
By Barron, Rude and Morris
$2.95 U.S./$3.95 Canadian
An alien being comes to North Am offering its citizens peace and prosperity, but at what price? Mike Barron and Steve Rude craft a tale on the cutting edge of science fiction that will have all comic fans talking about this newest VALIANT/DARK HORSE crossover! Sporting a fully painted cover by Steve Rude on card stock, this is sure to be the most talked about intercompany series yet. NOTE: This story takes place BEFORE **MAGNUS #1** from VALIANT!

MIRAGE #5

THE SECOND LIFE OF DOCTOR MIRAGE™ #5
By Layton, Chang, Branch and Fornoni
$2.50 U.S./$3.30 Canadian
Guest Starring Shadowman
Master Darque uses Sandria to lure Doctor Mirage to his doom in part one of the **SHADOWMAN/DR. MIRAGE** two-part adventure. The story is concluded in this month's **SHADOWMAN #23**.

SHADOW #23

SHADOWMAN™ #23
By Hall, Dixon and Cavalieri
$2.50 U.S./$3.30 Canadian
Guest Starring Doctor Mirage
Continued from **THE SECOND LIFE OF DR. MIRAGE #5** — as Darque's evil plans to destroy Shadowman approaches fruition, only Dr. Mirage can save Jack in part two of the **SHADOWMAN/DR. MIRAGE** story-line.

ALSO THIS MONTH:

ARCHER ARMSTRONG #20

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG® #20
By Baron and Vosburg
$2.50 U.S./$3.30 Canadian

BLOODSHOT #14

BLOODSHOT™ #14
By VanHook, Parlin, Dixon and Jade
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

ETERNAL WARRIOR #20

ETERNAL WARRIOR™ #20
By VanHook, Halsted, and DeCarlo
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

HARBINGER #27

HARBINGER™ #27
By Foolsnet, Chen, Wendel and Beccari
$2.50 U.S./$3.30 Canadian

H.A.R.D. CORPS #16

The H.A.R.D. CORPS® #16
By Michalinis, Quitchet and Barnes
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

MAGNUS #34

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER™ #34
By DeVries, Calafiore and Mayo
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

NINJAK #2

NINJAK™ #2
By Moretti, Quesada and Palmiotti
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

SECRET WEAPONS #7

SECRET WEAPONS™ #7
By St. Pierre, Bolinger and Cavalieri
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

RAI AND THE FUTURE FORCE #19

RAI AND THE FUTURE FORCE™ #19
By DeVries, Calafiore, and Mayo
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM #31

SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM™ #31
By VanHook, Grau and Palmiotti
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

TUROK #9

TUROK, DINOSAUR HUNTER™ #9
By Truman & Olexiewicz
$2.50 U.S./$3.30 Canadian

X-O MANOWAR #26

X-O MANOWAR™ #26
By Johnson, Goetzbier and Levins
$2.25 U.S./$2.95 Canadian

COURTESY OF:

NEXT ISSUE:

January is Shadowman Month, so the VALIANT VOICE talks with writer/artist Bob Hall about Shadowman's dark vigilante. We'll also have our regular features, plus an Armorines color center spread.

See you in 30 days...